

June 2009

NHC NEWS

A Monthly Bulletin of the Northwest Horticultural Council

CENTER FOR PRODUCE SAFETY

The Northwest Horticultural Council and the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission are working together to increase our industry's involvement with the Center for Produce Safety. The Center was established in 2007 at the University of California/Davis as a result of funding by many companies and associations in the nation's fresh fruit and vegetable industry, including the Produce Marketing Association. Its goal is to identify science-based solutions in the area of food safety for produce.

The Center has an executive director, Bonnie Fernandez-Fenaroli, as well as a policy-making board of advisors and an active technical committee. Dr. Mike Willett of the NHC is a new member of this technical committee, which is chaired by Dr. Bob Whitaker, PMA's chief science officer. More information may be obtained from the Center's Web site at www.cps.ucdavis.edu.

An industry application, strongly supported by the NHC and the WTFRC, was made in late May to the Washington State Department of Agriculture asking that it to allocate \$250,000 in research funds to the Center for Produce Safety for food safety projects of interest to our tree fruit industry. This money would come from the Farm Bill's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, under which WSDA now has some \$2.5 million to distribute to commercially worthwhile projects.

The Center for Produce Safety is a much-needed cooperative effort to address the practical scientific needs of the nation's growers and shippers—who often find themselves adrift upon the largely uncharted and troubled seas of food safety.

MORE EXUBERANT THAN THEIR LEAVES

Horace Walpole, the son of a British prime minister, lived a lively intellectual life of ease at his manor, Strawberry Hill, near London in the 18th century. A witty and prolific author, his letters and other literary works have been published in some 48 volumes by the Yale University Press.

In addition to politics, society, and the arts, Walpole talked about his gardens. For example, on August 29, 1748, he noted in a letter on planting "...the deliberation with which trees grow, is extremely inconvenient to my natural impatience."

And in 1788, Walpole wrote to the Countess of Upper Ossory as follows:

My verdure begins to recover its bloom, Madam, like yours. I did not despair, for, in this country, nobody pays his debts like rain. It may destroy your flowers, but you cannot complain of want of fruit; cherries, apples, walnuts, are more exuberant than their leaves; I don't believe that a single blossom will fail of coming to age. Cherries, I am told, are cried in London at a halfpenny a pound--- Kentish ones, I mean,---which is cheaper than they have been since William the Conqueror landed here."

The fresh fruit market, as governed by the hard considerations of supply and demand, seems unchanged to the present day.



Travel

Christian Schlect

June 2 - Washington Apple Education Foundation's Golf Tournament at Desert Canyon, Orondo, Washington.

June 3-6 – Agricultural Trade Mission to the Capital with Governor Gregoire and Director Newhouse, Washington, D.C.

June 25 – Washington State China Relations Council's 30th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Gala, Seattle, Washington.

Mark Powers

June 9 – Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company's Grower Meeting, Hood River, Oregon.

Mike Willett

June 3-5 – Speaker at California Specialty Crops Council's 2009 MRL Workshop, San Francisco, California.

June 15-18 – Meeting of the Minor Crop Farmer Alliance Technical Committee, Washington, D.C.

Deborah Carter

June 17-18 – Meeting of the United Fresh Produce Association's Food Safety & Technology Council, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Our visit to India culminated in one more mass rally. Nehru called it a reception in honor of the USSR in the name of the people of India. A speaker's platform was set up on a huge, attractive city square. So many people gathered there would have been no place for an apple to fall among the crowd.

Edited by **Sergei Khrushchev**
Memoirs of Nikita Khrushchev
Statesman [1953-1964]

The Northwest Horticultural Council represents the deciduous tree fruit industry of Idaho, Oregon and Washington on national and international policy matters of interest to growers and shippers. Its members are:

- *Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers*
- *Idaho Apple Commission*
- *Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission*
- *Pacific Northwest Canned Pear Service*
- *Washington Apple Commission*
- *Washington State Fruit Commission*
- *Washington Tree Fruit Research Comm.*
- *Wenatchee Valley Traffic Assn.*
- *Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Assn.*

The NHC also advises the Fresh Pear Committee (Portland) on certain issues related to food safety, crisis control and international trade.



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- **Mark Powers**, Vice President
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